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UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 05 USBERLIN 01929

DEPT FOR EUR/CE, BONN FOR JEFF GALLUP

E.O. 12356: N/A  
TAGS: WSB, BQG, GC, GE  
SUBJECT: SUMMARY OF BERLIN PRESS

. THIS MESSAGE TRANSMITS THE SUMMARY OF PRESS REPORTS  
AND COMMENTARY PREPARED EACH DAY BY U.S. MISSION  
BERLIN. IT INCLUDES REPORTS FROM NEWSPAPERS PUBLISHED  
IN WEST BERLIN AND FROM THE MAJOR EAST GERMAN  
NEWSPAPERS. MISSION BERLIN TRANSMITS THIS SUMMARY FOR  
THE SPECIAL USE OF EMBASSY BONN AND WASHINGTON AGENCIES  
WHO ARE REQUIRED TO FOLLOW DEVELOPMENTS IN BERLIN ON A  
DAILY BASIS. IT IS NOT PART OF THE DAILY MEDIA REPORT  
SERIES WHICH IS PRODUCED BY EMBASSY BONN FOR ALL OF WEST  
GERMANY, INCLUDING WEST BERLIN.

REVIEW - WEST PRESS

. WEST BERLIN DAILIES TODAY HIGHLIGHT QUEEN  
ELIZABETH'S 24-HOUR VISIT TO BERLIN, BEGINNING TODAY  
(DER TAGESSPIEGEL); STATEMENTS BY FRG COUNTER  
INTELLIGENCE SERVICES THAT THREE SOVIET DIPLOMATS IN  
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BONN WERE INVOLVED IN ESPIONAGE ACTIVITIES AND THAT TWO  
OTHER EAST EUROPEANS HAVE BEEN CONVICTED AS SPIES  
(BERLINER MORGENPOST); AND THE THE FACT THAT THE  
GOETTINGEN UNIVERSITY CANCELLED ITS 250TH ANNIVERSARY

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
REVIEW AUTHORITY: WILLIAM J GEHRON  
DATE/CASE ID: 22 DEC 2004 200403871

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CELEBRATION -- WHERE PRESIDENT VON WEIZSAECKER WAS TO BE HONORED -- BECAUSE STUDENT RIOTS WERE EXPECTED (VOLKSBLATT, DIE WELT).

. OTHER PROMINENT NEWS INCLUDES TEHRAN'S PURPORTED READINESS TO MEDIATE IN THE FRG-LEBANESE HOSTAGE AFFAIR (DER TAGESSPIEGEL ET AL); SOVIET LEADER GORBACHEV'S VISIT TO RUMANIA (DER TAGESSPIEGEL); THE CANCELLATION BY POLISH LEADER JARUZELSKI OF HIS MEETING WITH EDWARD KENNEDY (DER TAGESSPIEGEL); CALLS BY NATO'S EUROPEAN PARTNERS TO STRENGTHEN CONVENTIONAL ARMAMENT (DER TAGESSPIEGEL); FORMER SECRETARY OF STATE KISSINGER'S WARNING AGAINST SCRAPPING ALL NUCLEAR WEAPONS IN EUROPE (BERLINER MORGENPOST); STATEMENTS BY BERLIN'S NATIONAL CENSUS "BOYCOTT INITIATIVES" THAT 15,000 WEST BERLINERS HAVE NOT TURNED IN THEIR CENSUS QUESTIONNAIRES (BERLINER MORGENPOST); VISITS BY GOVERNING MAYOR DIEPGEN AND JEWISH COMMUNITY LEADER GALINSKI TO JEWISH CEMETARIES IN EAST BERLIN (BERLINER MORGENPOST ET AL); REPORTS THAT THE ORGANIZERS OF NEXT MONTH'S TOUR DE FRANCE BICYCLE RACE IN WEST BERLIN UNTIL NOW HAVE COLLECTED ONLY DM 500,000 FROM SPONSORS INSTEAD OF THE NEEDED DM 1.5 MILLION (BERLINER MORGENPOST); STATEMENTS BY GDR AND FRG EXPERTS THAT THE INNER-GERMAN AGREEMENT ON ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION IS READY FOR SIGNATURE (BERLINER MORGENPOST ET AL); AND THE FOUR-DAY VISIT TO EAST BERLIN OF A CDU/CSU GERMAN-GERMAN WORKING GROUP (BERLINER MORGENPOST).

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MORE NEWS IN BRIEF

. U.S. AMBASSADOR BURT IN AN INTERVIEW WITH DEUTSCHLANDFUNK RADIO SAID PRESIDENT REAGAN IN HIS PLANNED SPEECH IN BERLIN WILL CALL FOR REMOVING THE WALL AND FOR OVERCOMING THE DIVISION OF EUROPE. BURT SAID THE ARMS RACE IN EUROPE IS ONLY A SYMPTOM OF THE UNDERLYING PROBLEMS OF EUROPEAN DIVISION (DER TAGESSPIEGEL ET AL ON SUNDAY).

. U.S. CITY COMMANDANT MAJ.GEN. MITCHELL WILL KEEP HIS POSITION FOR AN ADDITIONAL YEAR. BERLIN CITY COMMANDANTS TYPICALLY STAY IN BERLIN FOR TWO OR THREE YEARS. MITCHELL CAME TO BERLIN IN 1984 (MOST PAPERS ON SATURDAY).

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. FAKE LEAFLETS WITH THE LETTERHEAD OF THE "INITIATE BERLIN-USA" HAVE BEEN DISTRIBUTED IN BERLIN, OFFERING MEMBERSHIP IN THE CLUB AND AN AIDS TEST FREE OF CHARGE (BERLINER MORGENPOST).

. "TREMBLING FOR FEAR IN VIEW OF THE REAGAN VISIT" IS THE TITLE OF A VOLKSBLATT ARTICLE, SATURDAY, DESCRIBING THE POLICE FORCE'S SITUATION IN LIGHT OF RECENT RIOTS AND THE UPCOMING VISIT OF PRESIDENT REAGAN.

. THE WEST GERMAN CONSERVATIVE "REPUBLICANS" POLITICAL PARTY THIS WEEKEND CREATED A LOCAL GROUP IN WEST BERLIN (DER TAGESSPIEGEL ET AL OVER THE WEEKEND).

. IN VIEW OF THE UPCOMING TCA OPEN HOUSE, A DEFINED

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AREA AROUND TEMPELHOF AIRPORT HAS BEEN DECLARED "OFF LIMITS" FOR POLITICAL DEMONSTRATIONS FROM FRIDAY NOON TO SUNDAY MIDNIGHT (DER TAGESSPIEGEL).

FDP PARLIAMENTARIAN DIETRICH PAWLOWSKI HAS ACCUSED TRANSPORTATION SENATOR WRONSKI OF USING ALLIED MISGIVINGS REGARDING THE IMPOSITION OF SPEED LIMITS FOR BOATS AND SHIPS ON WEST BERLIN WATERS AS A PRETEXT TO SLOW THE DEVELOPMENT OF NEW REGULATIONS (DER TAGESSPIEGEL).

AN EXCHANGE OF GDR AND FRG MILITARY OFFICERS AT MILITARY SCHOOLS, AS PROPOSED BY EAST GERMAN GENERAL GERHARD KUNZE, IS CONCEIVABLE, WEST GERMAN DEFENSE MINISTRY ASSISTANT SECRETARY PETER KURT WUERZBACH HAS SAID (BERLINER MORGENPOST ET AL OVER THE WEEKEND).

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CHANCELLOR KOHL ADVOCATED THE LIFTING OF RENT CONTROL IN BERLIN AT A WEST BERLIN MEETING OF THE ASSOCIATION OF LANDLORDS. HE ALSO SAID THAT 800,000 YOUNG EAST GERMANS WILL BE PERMITTED BY THE GDR TO TRAVEL TO WEST GERMANY THIS YEAR. THE GDR FOREIGN MINISTRY HAS SAID THAT 2.5 MILLION EAST GERMANS ARE LIKELY TO VISIT THE FRG IN 1987 (DIE WELT).

BERLIN'S AL HAS ELECTED FIVE NEW BOARD MEMBERS: ASTRID GEESE, BIRGIT ARKENSTETTE, CHRISTIAN STROEBELE, URS MUELLER-PLANTENBERG, GIYAS SAYAM (VOLKSBLATT; BZ ON MONDAY).

THE SENAT PRESS OFFICE ON SATURDAY REPORTED THAT AN EAST GERMAN'S ATTEMPTED ESCAPE APPARENTLY FAILED AT LUEBARS, REINICKENDORF, ON FRIDAY (DER TAGESSPIEGEL ET AL ON SUNDAY).

BERLINER MORGENPOST ON SUNDAY INCLUDES AN INTERVIEW

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WITH CDU SECRETARY GENERAL GEISSLER UNDERSCORING THAT  
THE CDU WANTS MORE DISARMAMENT THAN GORBACHEV.

. EAST GERMANY, IN A PR CAMPAIGN, IS TRYING TO POLISH  
THE IMAGE OF ITS BORDER TROOPS BECAUSE THE NUMBER OF  
VOLUNTEERS IS DROPPING (BERLINER MORGENPOST).

. IN A LETTER TO BERLINER MORGENPOST, BERLIN YOUNG  
UNION CHAIRMAN DIETER DOMBROWSKI ON SUNDAY POINTS TO  
APPARENTLY UNFOUNDED FEARS THAT PASSPORTS ISSUED IN  
BERLIN IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE QUADRIPARTITE AGREEMENT  
ARE NOT ACCEPTED BY EAST BLOC COUNTRIES. HE SAYS THAT  
HE AND A DELEGATION LAST YEAR USED SUCH PASSPORTS  
TRAVELLING TO MOSCOW WITHOUT PROBLEM.

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. PROFESSOR HORST ALBACH FROM KOBLENS, FRG, HAS BEEN  
ELECTED FIRST PRESIDENT OF THE NEW ACADEMY OF SCIENCES  
IN WEST BERLIN (BZ ET AL OVER THE WEEKEND).

. FILM DIRECTOR AND PRODUCER BILLY WILDER OVER THE  
WEEKEND WAS GUEST OF U.S. MINISTER JOHN C. KORNBLUM.  
TOGETHER WITH FRIENDS, THEY TOOK A BOAT TRIP TO  
GLIENICKE BRIDGE (BZ ON MONDAY).

. "A CHANGE OF COURSE IN WASHINGTON - ARMS CONTROL HAS  
.A CHANCE IN REAGAN'S AMERICA" IS THE TITLE OF A  
VOLKSBLATT FULL PAGE REPORT ON SUNDAY ON THE VISIT OF 31  
FREE UNIVERSITY STUDENTS TO NEW YORK CITY AND  
WASHINGTON, DC WHERE THEY MEET WITH POLITICIANS.

REVIEW - EAST PRESS

. TOP STORY IN ALL EAST BERLIN PAPERS ON TUESDAY IS  
THE OPENING OF THE "SCIENCE AND PRODUCTION FOR THE  
BENEFIT OF THE PEOPLE" SHOW AT EAST BERLIN'S WERNER  
SEELENBINDER HALL BY SED CHIEF ERICH HONECKER ON  
MONDAY. THE EXHIBITION FEATURES HIGH-TECH PRODUCTS,  
COMPUTERS, NEW S-BAHN TRAINS, HOUSEHOLD GADGETS,  
GARMENTS, ETC. PRODUCED EXCLUSIVELY IN THE GDR.

. OTHER FRONTPAGE STORIES INCLUDE THE ARRIVAL IN EAST  
BERLIN MONDAY OF A DELEGATION OF THE FRG GERMAN LABOR  
UNION (DGB) UNDER ITS CHAIRMAN ERNST BREIT FOR A VISIT  
OF SEVERAL DAYS AND THE DELEGATION'S RECEPTION BY FDGB

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LABOR UNION CHAIRMAN HARRY TISCH (ALL PAPERS); SED CHIEF

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ERICH HONECKER'S MESSAGE OF CONGRATULATIONS TO HUNGARIAN  
WORKERS' PARTY CHIEF JANOS KADAR ON HIS 75TH BIRTHDAY  
(ALL PAPERS); THE INTERNATIONAL OAU PRESS CONFERENCE IN  
EAST BERLIN ON MONDAY, THE 24TH ANNIVERSARY OF OAU,  
WHERE THE AMBASSADORS OF ALGERIA, MOZAMBIQUE, AND THE  
HEADS OF THE REPRESENTATIONS IN THE GDR OF THE ANC,  
SWAPO ANSWERED QUESTIONS OF JOURNALISTS (NEUES

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DEUTSCHLAND); THE MESSAGE OF SOLIDARITY WHICH SED CHIEF ERICH HONECKER ADDRESSED TO THE INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM "WRITERS ACCUSE APARTHEID," HELD IN BRAZZAVILLE, CONGO, FROM MAY 25 TO 30 (MOST PAPERS); THE HANOVER, FRG, EVANGELICAL ACADEMY MEETING "INTERNATIONAL SECURITY AND CONFIDENCE" WHICH SPOKE OUT FOR DISARMAMENT AND WAS ATTENDED BY REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE FRG, THE U.S., THE USSR, THE GDR AND OTHERS (NEUE ZEIT); AND THE REELECTION OF WOLFGANG KLAUE, DIRECTOR OF THE GDR STATE FILM ARCHIVE, AS VICE PRESIDENT OF THE FEDERATION

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INTERNATIONALE DES ARCHIVES DU FILM (FIAF) WHICH HELD ITS CONGRESS IN BERLIN (WEST) RECENTLY (NEUE ZEIT).

COMMENTARY - WEST PRESS

GERMANY AND DISARMAMENT

. THE INDEPENDENT DER TAGESSPIEGEL ON SUNDAY FEATURES A FRONTPAGE COMMENTARY BY JOACHIM BOELKE WHO SAYS: CHANCELLOR KOHL'S APPROACH TO THE DISCUSSION ON ELIMINATING INF'S IN EUROPE CAN BE EXPLAINED ONLY BY ASSUMING THAT HE TO SOME DEGREE DISTRUSTS THE AMERICAN INTENTIONS IN THE DISARMAMENT NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE SOVIETS. IT SEEMS HE IS CONVINCED THAT THE U.S. IN ITS EFFORT TO REACH SWIFT AGREEMENT NOT ONLY ON REDUCING WEAPON SYSTEMS BUT ALSO ON REAL DISARMAMENT WILL NOT REALLY TAKE INTO ACCOUNT ALL ASPECTS OF EUROPEAN SECURITY....IT DOES NOT TAKE MUCH IMAGINATION TO FIND THE CAUSE FOR THIS SUDDEN DISTRUST....THE KEYWORD IS REYKJAVIK. THERE, AT THE SUMMIT OF REAGAN AND GORBACHEV, THE ALLIES WITNESSED AMERICANS UNPREPARED FOR THE SOVIET PROPOSALS...

. "KOHL THUS POSSIBLY NURSED HOPES THAT THE OTHER ALLIES MIGHT LISTEN TO HIS OBJECTIONS TO THE SIMPLE ZERO OR ZERO-ZERO OPTION...HOWEVER, THAT OBVIOUSLY TURNED OUT TO BE WRONG. DESPITE THE FACT THAT NO ONE AMONG THE ALLIES IS REALLY QUITE CONVINCED OF THE ENVISAGED SOLUTION -- THERE IS NO COMPLETE ABOLISHMENT OF AN ENTIRE SYSTEM -- THE ASSESSMENT OF WHAT HAS BEEN ACHIEVED IS SO POSITIVE THAT NO ONE WANTS TO BURDEN IT WITH NEW DEMANDS. THUS, A COMMON EUROPEAN POSITION GRADUALLY DEVELOPED WHICH ONLY BONN WAS STILL UNABLE TO

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SHARE.

. "THIS, OF COURSE, WAS A HIGHLY UNCOMFORTABLE POSITION FOR BONN. IT SEEMED URGENTLY NECESSARY TO INITIATE A WITHDRAWAL, ESPECIALLY SINCE VOICES MIXED INTO THE POLITICAL CHOIR, SPEAKING EVEN OF BETRAYAL OF GERMANY'S SPECIAL INTEREST THROUGH THE UNITED STATES AND OTHER GERMAN ALLIES. AN EMOTIONAL BREAKDOWN OF THE ALLIANCE INDEED THREATENED. THAT WOULD BE IN NO ONE'S INTEREST."

. DER TAGESSPIEGEL ON SUNDAY ALSO INCLUDES AN ARTICLE ON THE SOVIET APPROACH TO GERMANY'S STANCE ON THE INF DISARMAMENT DISCUSSION. THE PAPER SAYS: "...EVEN IF HELMUT KOHL WANTED TO REDUCE ALL NUCLEAR ARMS, INCLUDING BATTLE FIELD WEAPONS, TO ZERO, THE KREMLIN WOULD NOT NOISILY REJECT THAT. ON THE CONTRARY, FOREIGN POLITICAL SPOKESMAN GERASIMOV AND 'PRAVDA' COMMENTATOR GRIGORYEV MAKE EFFORTS TO UNDERLINE THE SOVIET UNION'S POSITIVE APPROACH TO COMPLETE ABOLISHMENT OF NUCLEAR ARMS IN EUROPE. ONLY, THEIR UNDERTONE REVEALS IRONY AND PRODUCES DOUBT...."

. DER TAGESSPIEGEL ON SATURDAY FRONTPAGES A COMMENTARY BY BOELKE WHO POINTS TO REPORTS ON DISARMAMENT EFFORTS IN THE CONTEXT OF RUMORS ON GERMAN REUNIFICATION. HE SAYS: "GERMAN DIVISION IS POLITICAL AND DID NOT DEVELOP FROM ARMAMENT AND REARMAMENT. IF WE WEST GERMANS TRIED TO TIE THE CHANCES OF REDUCING ARMAMENT TO GERMAN REUNIFICATION, IT WOULD LEAD US NOT TO THE DESIRED GOAL BUT RATHER TO INVOLUNTARY NEUTRALIZATION OF THE FRG. AN

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INCREASE IN SECURITY WOULD NOT BE ATTAINED. IF,  
ADDITIONALLY, GERMAN DECISIONS ON DISARMAMENT DEPENDED  
ON HOPE FOR IMMEDIATE REUNIFICATION, THE POWERS WOULD  
IGNORE THEM EVEN MORE. HOWEVER, THE UNEXPECTED DEBATE  
ON REUNIFICATION REVEALS HOW SENSITIVE THE GERMAN  
SITUATION BECOMES WHEN GERMAN OR ALLIED ACTIVITY CREATES  
THE IMPRESSION THAT THERE IS NO SOLIDARITY IN THE  
ALLIANCE."

. THE INDEPENDENT-CONSERVATIVE BERLINER MORGENPOST ON  
SUNDAY IN A PAGE-TWO COMMENTARY POINTS TO THE  
DIFFERENCES BETWEEN CHANCELLOR KOHL AND FOREIGN MINISTER  
GENSCHER ON INF DISARMAMENT AND SAYS: "GENSCHER, OF  
COURSE, DOES NOT THINK OF GOING INTO RETIREMENT. BUT,  
THE CHANCELLOR SHOULD BEAR IN MIND THAT HE HAS THE SAY  
IN GERMAN POLITICS. IF THE CHANCELLOR CONTINUALLY  
IGNORES THIS, IT COULD BECOME CAUSE FOR SUSPICION THAT  
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REMAINING IN POWER -- AND HE NEEDS GENSCHER FOR THAT -- IS MORE IMPORTANT TO HIM THAN THE REPUBLIC."

AMBASSADORS BURT AND KVITSINSKI

. THE INDEPENDENT DER TAGESSPIEGEL ON MAY 23 CARRIES A REPORT ON PAGE THREE BY BONN CORRESPONDENT DIETRICH MOELLER ABOUT THE DIFFERENCES AND SIMILARITIES BETWEEN U.S. AMBASSADOR TO BONN RICHARD BURT AND HIS SOVIET COLLEAGUE YULI KVITSINSKI. IT SAYS: "BOTH HAVE QUITE A FEW THINGS IN COMMON AFTER ALL. THEY HAVE QUICK INTELLIGENCE, BUT NOT ALWAYS THE PRUDENCE NECESSARY TO BALANCE THEIR WORDS WITH DISCIPLINE. SO THEY OCCASIONALLY GIVE IN TO TEMPTATIONS OF RHETORICAL ATTACK OR QUICK REPLY, EVEN THOUGH RESTRAINT WOULD BE APPROPRIATE. THEY HAVE MADE BREATH-TAKINGLY FAST CAREERS. IN DEALING WITH THE TOPIC OF ARMS CONTROL AND PUTTING IT INTO CONTEXT WITH STRATEGIC CONSIDERATIONS, BOTH ARE TOP-RATE EXPERTS. AND THEY FIND IT DIFFICULT TO CONCEAL THAT THEY ARE BOTH REPRESENTATIVES OF SUPERPOWERS WHICH DWARF EVERYONE ELSE.

. "NEVERTHELESS BOTH OF THEM RECENTLY HAVE BECOME QUITE INVOLVED IN WOOING THEIR GOVERNMENTS' UNDERSTANDING FOR THEIR HOST COUNTRY. THE FACT THAT BURT AND KVITSINSKI IN THE PAST CAUSED THE GERMANS TO BE ANNOYED ABOUT THEIR ATTITUDES AS SUPERPOWER LEGATES -- THE TERM 'HIGH COMMISSIONERS' WAS OFTEN USED -- TODAY SEEMS A DISTANT MEMORY. BOTH OF THEM LEARNED TO THE SAME DEGREE....

. "AN IMPORTANT DIFFERENCE BETWEEN YULI KVITSINSKI AND RICHARD BURT IS THIS: ONE CONSIDERS THE FRG A PARTNER  
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WHO SHOULD ALWAYS BE AWARE OF ITS INFERIORITY TO THE WORLD POWERS.... THE OTHER WANTS THE GERMANS TO BE A SELF-CONFIDENT PARTNER OF THE U.S., INSISTING ON THE RIGHTS RESULTING FROM THIS RELATIONSHIP TO THE SAME DEGREE AS HAVING TO FULFILL THE OBLIGATIONS; AND IT IS THIS ATTITUDE WHICH FULLY CORRESPONDS TO THE AMERICAN VIEW ON TREATING ONE ANOTHER IN THEIR OWN SOCIETY."

QUEEN ELIZABETH IN BERLIN

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. THE INDEPENDENT DER TAGESSPIEGEL FEATURES A COMMENTARY BY JOACHIM BOELKE WHO SAYS: "ALMOST NO OTHER PLACE OUTSIDE OF THE UNITED KINGDOM WAS VISITED AS OFTEN BY REPRESENTATIVES OF THE BRITISH CROWN AS BERLIN. THIS IS NOT SURPRISING SINCE GREAT BRITAIN, LIKE THE U.S. AND FRANCE HAS SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR BERLIN AND GERMANY..."

. THE INDEPENDENT-CONSERVATIVE BERLINER MORGENPOST IN A PAGE-TWO COMMENTARY OBSERVES: "SOME BRITAINS EVEN BELIEVE THAT THEIR QUEEN IS JUST AS POPULAR IN GERMANY AS IN GREAT BRITAIN. INDEED, MANY BERLINERS HAVE TAKEN THIS ALMOST SHY RATHER THAN SHOWY WOMAN INTO THEIR HEART...SHE ATTENDS OUR 750TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION AS HEAD OF STATE OF A FRIENDLY NATION AND AS PATRON OF THOSE SOLDIERS WHO LIVE AMONG US AND GUARANTEE OUR FREEDOM.

. "THIS IS PRECISELY THE DIFFERENCE TO THE OTHER HIGH RANKING VISITOR GORBACHEV WHO WILL ARRIVE IN EAST BERLIN ON WEDNESDAY. HIS SOLDIERS WERE NEVER ASKED TO

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